



ST. GERMANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1938.

H. G. ROBINSON, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30126654>

ST. GERMANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit my Report for 1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	48,400
Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid 1938)	...	...	15,310
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	4,337
Rateable Value	...	...	£53,502 10s.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£217

The population is mainly employed in Agriculture and Market Gardening. A Cattle Market is held regularly at Callington situated in the centre of an Agricultural district. Calstock is mainly occupied with Market Gardening, and there is some Salmon Fishing in the River Tamar there. The villages on the South Coast, such as Kingsand, Cawsand and Downderry and Crafhole, are largely patronised as holiday resorts in the Summer. A number of Government employees reside in the Millbrook area.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—There has been a decrease in the South part of the District, comprising Kingsand, Millbrook, Downderry and St. Germans, but in the Callington and Calstock area it has remained much as usual.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Corrected by inward and outward Transfer.

			<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	...	...	187	97	90
Legitimate	...	...	177	92	85
Illegitimate	...	...	10	5	5
STILL BIRTHS	...	...	7	3	4
Legitimate	...	...	6	3	3
Illegitimate	...	...	1	...	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	12.2
Still Births. Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	36.0
Birth Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.1

DEATHS.

Total number corrected by transfer	...	214
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	13.9
Adjusted do do do	...	11.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	11.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.—	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 (live and still) Births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	
Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.—

All Infants per 1,000 live Births (England and Wales)	53
Do. Do. Do	48.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births	45.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	100

TABLE SHEWING CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE INCIDENCE.

Disease.	M.	F.	Un. 1	1-2	2-3	3-5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	65- 75	75 & over
Influenza	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...
Other Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cancer	18	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	7	19	9
Diabetes	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Heart Disease	28	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	16	17	15
Aneurysm	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Circulatory	8	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	8	8
Bronchitis	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Pneumonia	3	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
Other Respiratory.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Diarrhoea (under 2)	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Liver .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Digestive .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	4	3
Congenital Debility	4	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senility	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10
Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Other Violence	5	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1
Other Defined	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	2	2	4	5
	106	106	9	1	1	1	...	4	4	2	10	17	40	61	62

This Table shews only 212 Deaths and varies slightly from that received from the Registrar General.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—(i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

H. G. ROBINSON, M.B., Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

P. B. GOVETT, M.Inst. M. and C.E., M.R.S.I., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

G. OLIVER, C.R.S.I., Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

(2) (a)—LABORATORY WORK is done either by the County Bacteriologist at Truro or by the Bacteriological Department at the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Plymouth.

(b) Ambulance Facilities are obtained mainly through the St. John Ambulance Association at Plymouth or Liskeard.

(c) Nursing in the Home is done by District Nurses who belong to the County Nursing Association.

(d) There are no Clinics in the District.

(e) There is no Hospital.

The County Council supervise the Maternity and Child Welfare work.

SECTIONS C, D AND E INCORPORATE THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

SECTION C.

1.—(1) WATER.

Chemical and bacteriological analyses have been made of 17 samples of water during the year chiefly from sources under the Council's direct control, and chemically all were found to be satisfactory, but in some cases the presence of coliform bacilli was higher than the standard desired as may be seen from the following :—

<i>Sample</i>		<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>	
No. 1	...	Good	...	B. Coli present in	25 c.c.
No. 2	...	„	...	„ present in	20 c.c.
No. 3	...	„	...	„ present in	100 c.c.
No. 4	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 5	...	„	...	„ present in	50 c.c.
No. 6	...	„	...	„ present in	100 c.c.
No. 7	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 8	...	„	...	„ present in	50 c.c.
No. 9	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 10	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 11	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 12	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 13	...	„	...	„ absent in	100 c.c.
No. 14	...	„	...	„ present in	1 c.c.
No. 15	...	„	...	„ present in	10 c.c.
No. 16	...	„	...	„ present in	1 c.c.
No. 17	...	„	...	„ present in	20 c.c.

Although the year was not particularly dry, there were periods during the Summer months when the quantity of water available from the Council's own sources was not sufficient to meet the demand and augmentation was found to be necessary at Downderry, Kingsand, Cawsand and St. Germans. Excepting the latter all the other three places were able to obtain a supply from the South-East Cornwall Water Boards' mains though the Board's filtration and treatment works were not completed. Chlorination of the water made it safe for drinking and domestic purposes. At St. Germans the auxiliary pumping plant breeched the difficulty, it is hoped for the last time, as the Board's main is now available to give an additional supply to the village when required.

Antony Village supply has not been satisfactory of late owing no doubt to the small supply and distribution mains and insufficient pressure. The mains being of very small diameter, have become corroded, which with the inadequate pressure have deprived premises on the high level of a proper supply. A length of new 3in. main has been laid in the village and a similar main will shortly be substituted for the existing small pipes to effect a complete renewal of the mains for the village, and in all probability these will be connected with the Board's main during next year, when no further difficulty should arise from this village supply.

Progress is being made with the preparation of water schemes for practically every village and hamlet in the district where previously water mains were non-existent, and before another year has passed it is anticipated that an adequate and wholesome supply of water for such places will be an accomplished fact. Already the main supply is being given or is available at Landrake, Blunts, Quethiock, Pillaton, Tideford, Tideford Cross, Minard Cross, Narkurs, Crafthole, and Sheviock, and other places in contracts which will shortly be let include St. Dominic, Harrowbarrow, Metherell, Cargreen, St. Mellion, Botusfleming, Trerulefoot, Bethany, Portwrinkle, St. John. Most of the above have hitherto been more or less dependent on village pumps and wells which have been known to be never absolutely reliable and often very suspicious of pollution.

Few rural districts in the country will in the near future be able to claim a more comprehensive system of piped water supply than the St. Germans District, and whereas in the past there were causes for anxiety in regard to the quality and quantity of the District's water supply, one may now look forward to a generation well provided with this prime necessity of life and independent of that type of individual who is ever ready to make capital of a public necessity.

Negotiations have been proceeding between the Council and the two Water Companies operating in the parish of Callington with a view to their undertakings being acquired by the Council if suitable terms can be agreed to, but as yet no definite decision has been arrived at. Here again the Board's supply may be an influential factor in guaranteeing a wholesome supply in that neighbourhood in bulk to the Company's mains if the Company's interest is not acquired.

(2)—Drainage and Sewerage.

Negotiations have been completed for the purchase of land at Callington for the purpose of sewage disposal and detail plans are being prepared for treatment works which will probably be submitted to the Ministry of Health in due course for sanction to a loan to carry out the works.

For Seaton, where some building development has taken place, a scheme has been prepared for constructing a new sewer with outfall into the sea at low water mark. Float observations appear to be satisfactory and if the scheme matures accommodation will, it is expected, be provided for sewerage from the area at Seaton adjoining this District in the district of Liskeard.

Several smaller places in the District are still in need of sewerage facilities and if, as appears to be probable, the cost of sewage work is made a charge on the general rate instead of on the parishes concerned, there is likely to be some work done in this direction.

A scheme is being carried out for Albaston sewerage and will be extended to the new County School at Drakewalls, and further extensions may be hoped for to provide drainage facilities for St. Ann's Chapel and Drakewalls area.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of streams in the district is not very extensive, and where non-tidal streams are known to be in danger of being affected, the Council's attention is drawn to the matter.

3.—(1) Closet Accommodation.

With a general expansion of the system of watermains in the district, there is a growing desire on the part of owners of property to abandon the earth closet system and to substitute water closets where possible, and during the year 35 new water closets have been provided in the district.

(2)—Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and scavenging are carried out under a precisely similar manner as during the past few years by the employment of one 10 cu.yd. Dennis Machine for the whole district, and a thoroughly competent staff, who perform their duties in an effiecient way and, with rare exceptions, maintain a regular time table.

(iii)—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following Inspections were made :—

Alleged Nuisance	...	...	...	...	60
Examination of Closets	...	...	...	...	48
Examination of Drainage and Cesspools	...	...	...	...	143
Examination of Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	56
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	13
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	41
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	42
Workshops and other Premises	...	...	...	...	60
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	188

Defects found and remedied or being attended to.—

Nuisances	...	...	...	...	13
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	20
Drainage	...	...	...	...	35
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	4
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	8

(iv)—SHOPS.

No particular action taken.

(v)—CAMPING SITES.

(1)—Six Sites are regularly used.

(2)—Five Sites. Licensed by the Authorities.

(3)—Approximate estimated number of campers at any one time, 550.

(vi)—SMOKE ABATEMENT.—

No action necessary.

(vii)—SWIMMING BATHS.—

None.

(viii)—ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No cases found.

4.—SCHOOLS.

Inspected and found to be satisfactory, except as regards water supply in one or two cases, but this will be improved, with the new supply.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	...	...	...	...	48
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	32
(2) By other persons	...	...	...	...	16
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts.—					
(1) By the Local Authority for the purpose of Part VI of the 1936 Act	...	...	...	...	8

1.—Inspection of Houses during the Year.—

(1) (a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing) (a)	607
Acts and (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose (b)	721
(2) (a) Number (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1932, and ... (a)	118
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose (b)	165
(3) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	14
(4) Number (exclusive of those referred to in the previous paragraph) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	29

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	24
--	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.—	
(1)—Number in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2)—Number rendered fit after service of Formal Notice :	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.—	
(1)—Number in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	79
(2)—Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936.—	
(1)—Number in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)—Number demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.—	
(1)—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	0
(2)—Number of above in which the Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit	0
Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority	122
Built in last three years under (1) Part iii of Act of 1925	48

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (1)—Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	4
(2)—Number of families in them at end of year	4
(3)—Number of persons in them at end of year	16
(b) Number of new cases reported during the year	1
(c) (1)—Number of cases relieved	1
(2)—Number of persons concerned in such	1
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement	0

During the year the Council measured 204 houses under the Act of 1936, and of these none was found to be overcrowded. The Council has provided accommodation for six families in the new houses which have been erected in different parts of the District.

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a)—MILK SUPPLY.

Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected. No samples of Milk were taken, as under the Accredited Milk Scheme the County Authorities do this work.

(b)—MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—

There are 22 slaughter houses in the District, and slaughtering also took place on many other premises. Shops have been inspected.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, including Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1300	...	...	1600	930 approx.
Number Inspected	109	...	...	121	226
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcase condemned	1	...	...	...	...
Part Carcase or Organ condemned	6	...	...	...	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	4.6	...	...	...	2.2
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	...	...	...	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.8	...	...	...	2.2

(c)—ADULTERATION, ETC.

No action.

(d)—CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXMINATION OF FOOD.

No action.

(e)—NUTRITION.

No action.

(f)—SHELL FISH.

No action taken by this Authority. The Port of Plymouth Authority have taken action preventing the sale of Shell Fish taken from the rivers adjoining lands in the area.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were a number of cases, mostly mild, of Scarlet Fever. Eleven of these were in the Millbrook district, 7 in the Gunnislake area, and 7 in Landrake ; 4 cases occurred in Callington, where the infection seems to have been brought by a soldier on leave. Fourteen cases were treated in Hospital, which is a much higher percentage than usual, and is a direct result of the arrangement made with Plymouth for maintenance at the Isolation Hospital at Swilly.

There were 12 cases of a mild form of Dysentery (Sonna type) in Millbrook and Cawsand areas.

There were 16 cases of Pneumonia, 12 of which occurred in the Millbrook district.

TABLE SHEWING AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Disease	No. of Cases	Under 1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...
Scarlet Fever	31	...	...	10	11	2	4	3	1	...
Pneumonia	16	...	2	1	1	...	...	7	2	3
Dysentery	12	1	...	...	1	...	2	3	1	4
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...

Two cases of Ophthalmic Neonatorum were notified.

There was no Diphtheria. There were several cases of Jaundice in the Calstock area, which seemed to be of an epidemic type, possibly of Influenzal origin.

No Diphtheria Immunisation was done at the expense of the Authority.

The School reports indicate the prevalence of non-notifiable diseases and there was an epidemic of Measles in one or two districts, of a mild type.

Disinfection is carried out by the Authority and a supply of disinfectants for use in the home can be obtained on application to the Sanitary Inspector or his representatives.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—

No action taken by the Local Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Fourteen cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs were reported during the year, and two cases were restored to the Register which had been removed in 1937 as requiring no treatment. One case was discovered only from the Death Returns. No action was taken under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE SHEWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1938.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5—15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	1	1	...
25—35	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
45—55	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55—65	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	...	...	11	4	...	...	2	3	1	...

In this Table the two cases restored are not indicated.

On the Register at the end of the year there were 61 Pulmonary Cases and 16 Non-Pulmonary.

To conclude I should like to say a word of my appreciation to your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his help and also for his excellent report on Sanitary Matters which is incorporated in this Report, and for the willing help which I have had during the year from the Office Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH G. ROBINSON, M.B., Ch.B.

